(c) The Navy is not treated as a "Cindrella service" and its genuine requirements are met.

Procurement of aerotyres by IAF

4194. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is experiencing difficulty in procuring aerotyres for its planes, especially after closing down of Dunlop Units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) After closure of Dunlop India factory at Kolkata, indigenous aerotyres are not available and all aircraft tyres are being imported. There is no problem in importing these tyres except for MIG-21 and MIG-25 fleets which are not operated in Russia any more. These tyres are not readily available in Russia. Alternate sources are being found.

Modernisation of defence forces

4195. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that acquisition and assimilation of military capabilities requires time ranging from five to ten years, if so, is our modernisation of defence forces attuned to that time-frame and are Defence budgetary allocations sufficient in view of belligerent neighbours on our borders; and

(b) if so, whether target fixed for modernisation during the last three years were met and what is the perspective planning for the coming decade?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The 15 year Long Term Perspective Plans and the Five Year and Annual Plans of the Defence Services are formulated on the understanding that acquisition and assimilation of military capabilities require a long restation period. Budgetary allocations are made keeping in mind these requirements and availability of resources.

(b) Allocation of budgetary resources (Budget Estimates) for the Defence Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) for modernization during

the last three years and Revised Estimates are given in the table below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates
2000-2001	15,980.56	12,827.92
2001-2002	17,815.76	14,858.68
2002-2003	18,858.42	12,802.12

The perspective programme of modernization of the Armed Forces envisages enhancement of deterrence and operational capabilities through upgrade of existing equipment and acquisition of state of the art force multipliers, surveillance and communication equipment, fire control systems, precision guided munitions, night vision devices, electronic warfare equipment, enhanced fire power and bringing in generational improvements in ship and submarine construction as well as aircraft.

Use of Army Trucks for transporting children to schools

4196. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that typical Army Trucks, usually with limited seating capacity in a longitudinal direction, are being used to transport children to Army Schools;

(b) if so, whether the trucks fulfil the norms for school buses; and

(c) if not, the reasons for use of these trucks for transporting school children?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The army trucks are meant to carry troops and stores during operations. During peace time a few of these trucks, with some modifications without hampering their operational preparedness, are used to transport school children. These vehicles are manned by qualified drivers and attendants, who take due care while driving. However, the Defence personnel are free to use the trar sport provided by the schools.

Monitoring of coast line

4197. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: